



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Paddling Safety Briefing Outline

(For Group Volunteer Projects and Non-Certified Paddlers)

Lead by DEP Class A-1 trained staff, one person per five watercrafts

Name of Leader: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Park/Facility: _____

Project Name: _____ Number of volunteers: _____

Leader Will Review the Following:

- Volunteer project goals
- Weather conditions for the day
- What to bring on watercraft (example: gloves, protective clothing, drinking water, insect repellent, hat, sunscreen)
- Paddling partner and watercraft assignments - experienced paddle partners with inexperienced
- PFD use and requirements - must be worn at all time on the water
- What each watercraft must include (2 paddles, etc.)
- Special cautions about hazards likely to be encountered
- Watercrafts stay together - stay within 100' of another boat
- Lead watercraft designation – not to be passed, sweep boat is last
- Use of whistle – repeating (more than 4) sharp blasts is SOS emergency, 1 blast is stop
- Review boating etiquette and outdoor ethics

Leader Demonstrations:

- Proper fitting of PFD
- Safe boarding and exiting of watercraft
- Safe loading and unloading of trash or invasive exotic (water lettuce) depending on goals of the volunteer project
- Effective paddling techniques

Falls Overboard and Swampings:

- Immediately proceed to nearest shoreline and alert supervising staff for recovery
- OR if shore is not a reasonable distance, hold onto the watercraft if possible and float
- Volunteers shall not attempt recovery of the watercraft